



New York Field Office Natural Resource Damage Assessment Update Congressional District 26

Hudson River PCB Superfund Site (Site)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to formally issue the Record of Decision (ROD) for this site in January 2002 and will immediately begin the design phase for the remedial action. New York State has concurred in the EPA's selection of a remedy for the site. Issuance of an Assessment Plan by the Trustees is expected within the next few months.

Funding for NRDA

- C \$3.5 million requested for CY2002 from the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund to support case activities.
- C Case will be provided \$1.5 million in two allotments (\$1.2 million initially and an additional \$300,000 when there are additional receipts to the DOI NRDAR Fund).
- C Funds will support hiring of a Case Manager and case/study management activities within the Department of the Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, and conduct of several studies.
- C Lack of full funding will preclude conduct of certain studies and activities.

Trustee Council Activities

In September and October 2001, the Natural Resource Trustees for the Hudson River conducted field work for a Hudson River Fish Health Assessment. The study, conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, is part of the ongoing Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Fish were collected and examined for internal and external lesions and other immune system indicators. Tissue samples were collected to investigate biological impacts from PCB contamination.

Communications with General Electric (GE)

- C Freedom of Information Act requests from GE to DOI and NOAA are proceeding on schedule.
- C GE is awaiting Trustee's issuance of the Assessment Plan before engaging in discussions with the Trustees regarding studies.
- C GE has indicated that after EPA issues the ROD, GE is interested in further discussions with the Trustees focused on the relationship between the ROD and the NRDA.